(c) what are the actions taken against the owners of those lands to prevent such illicit cultivations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: (a) Yes, Sir. 19 Ganja raids have been conducted in Madurai District by Narcotics Intelligence Bureau, Madras in 1994.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) 23 illicit Ganja cultivators concerned in 8 Hill raid cases who had cultivated forest lands in Madurai District were convicted and sentenced to undergo R.I. ranging from 6 months to 3 years and fines of Rs. 1,000|- to Rs. 15,000|- have been imposed during the years 1993 and 1994 (cases pertaning to NIB, Madras).

Decline in outstanding and fresh loans in Regional Rural Banks

1062. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recovery of outstanding loans and getting of fresh loans have declined in the Regional Rural Banks in Gujarat:

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: (a)* and (b) The loans issued by the Regional Rural Banks in Gujarat have generally recorded an increase during 1991-92 and 1992-93 and as will be seen from the table below. In regard to the recoveries made, except for the decline during 1991-92, three has been an increase. In terms of percentage of recovery to demand, it is yet to reach the level attained during 1990-91.

(Rs. in crores)

	Loans issued	Loans recovered	% of recovery to demand
1990-91	24.39	26.57	61.74
1991-92	31.11	22.49	49.54
1992-93*	33.77	35.95	56.94

*Data provisional

Poor recovery can be attributed to a number of factors, namely, natural calamities, inadequate supervision over end-use of loan, loan waivers vitiating the recovery climate, inadequate support of the local administration in recovery efforts and wilful defaults.

(c) Recoverey management in the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) has been made an important component of the Development Action Plan (DAP) which all RRBs are required to prepare for achieving the turn-around. RRBs have been advised by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to make use of Lok Adalats|Lok Nyayalays with necessary guidance on procedural matters from their sponsor banks for recovery of their dues. Besides, to improve the viability of the RRBs, a package of measures has been announced in December, 1993. These measures include raising non-target group financing from 40 per cent to 60 per cent, increasing non-fund business, freeing RRBs whose disbursals during 1992-93 were less than Rs 2 crores from service area obligations and permission to relocate loss making branches at place like Mandis, Taluk|District headquarters, agriculture produce centres and to open extension counters at premises of instructions for which the RRB is the principal banker. Further RBI has allowed in January, 1995 RRBs to make investment of their non-SLR surplus fund in specified profitable avenues and for expansion of credit.

Study coducted by ICICI

1053. SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India has conducted any study on technical or financial viability of the power plants in private sector in Gujarat State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposals have been received by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India from Power plants in Private sector in the State;

(d) if so, the details of proposals received during 1993-94 and 1994-95 so far; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) The indusrial Credit & Investment Corporation of India Limited (ICICI) has reported that it has not conducted any technical and financial feasibility study with regard to private sector power plants in Gujarat separately. However, as a part of the process of granting financial assistance, ICICI conducts technical, financial and commercial evaluation of project proposals submitted to it by private sector companies, in consortium with the Industrial development Bank of India and/or the Industrial Finance Corporation of India Limited.

(c) to (e) ICICI has reported that it received a proposal from Gujarat Torrent Energy Corporation Limited (GTEC) during the year 1994-95 for setting up a 655 MW gas based combine cycle power plant. ICICI has sanctioned financial assistance to GTEC comprising Rs. 25 crores as rupee loan and Rs. 134 crores as deferred payment guarantee to foreign suppliers.

Reservation of handicapped and disabled in stock exchanges

1064. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether any reservation has been made for the handicapped and disabled persons in Stock Exchanges in the country for appointment as brokers, sub-brokers, jobbers etc.:

(b) if so, what criteria have been laid down for the purpose; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for not making reservation for the handicapped and disabled as they are being given reservation in Government jobs?